

Mt. Republican
CH-17
Newburg vic.
Private

Circa 1790; 1850

Mt. Republican is one of Charles County's most architecturally interesting and complex historic landmarks. The dwelling includes a two-part Flemish bond brick building situated on a 350 acre tract that commands a sweeping view of the Potomac River valley. The main block reflects the typical double-pile side-passage plan that pervaded building traditions in Charles County until the end of the Civil War. The dwelling is believed to have been erected around 1790. However interior woodwork including a massive newel date from the mid-19th century. Exterior elements that are especially noteworthy include large fanlight transoms and an exceptionally elaborate cornice.

Believed to have been built for Theophilus Yates, Mt. Republican shares architectural features with nearby Waverly (CH-30) and West Hatton (CH-39) and may be attributed to the same builder/architect. While a 20th century fire gutted the service wing, the interior of the main block is exceptionally well-preserved, making this one of Charles County's most important historic landmarks.

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No.

CH-17

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Mt. Republican

other Mt. Republic

2. Location

street and number 12755 Rock Point Road not for publication

city, town Newburg X vicinity

county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Gordon A. & Bridgett M. O'Neill

street and number PO Box S telephone 301-259-4232

city, town La Plata state MD zip code 20646-0510

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 82 p.12

city, town La Plata liber 301 folio 1

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	2
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	1
			2
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-17

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

One of Charles County's most architecturally interesting and complex historic landmarks, Mt. Republican is a two-part Flemish bond brick building situated on a 350 acre tract that commands a sweeping view of the Potomac River valley in the Cobb Neck peninsula dividing the Potomac and Wicomico Rivers. The main block is a side-passage double-pile, three bay, 2 1/2 story structure approached by a scenic tree-lined drive. Outstanding features found on the principal eave elevations include large fanlight transom and an exceptionally elaborate cornice. The gable elevations include a single glazed brick diamond design near the parapet and between the flush paired brick chimneys. Non-contributing resources include a garage and concrete block tenant house to the south of the dwelling. An in-ground swimming pool stands to the north but is heavily screened from view of the dwelling.

The roadside elevation faces northeast. The main block consists of three bays containing 6/6 wood double-hung windows with flat arch lintels. The frieze reflects the Doric order with triglyphs, metopes and mutules including a soffit decorated with a series of closely spaced carved or applied drops or guttae. Metopes are in the form of decorative diamonds. The entrance is accentuated by an 18-light semi-circular fanlight found on both eave elevations which because of their large size, are unique in Charles County. 8-light sidelights on either side of the wooden 6-panel doors provide additional light into the wide entrance hall.

The gable end walls are parapetted and corbelled. The northwest gable elevation includes a centered attic-story 4-light compass window, above two 6/6 windows also in the attic half-story. The second floor has three symmetrical 6/9 windows above two larger 6/6 windows on the first floor. The opposite eave elevation, which overlooks the Potomac River valley, mirrors the main block of the northeast elevation and is as equally elaborate as its roadside counterpart. The southeast eave elevation is obscured by the dependency below the attic story. Visible is a diamond shaped ornamentation formed of glazed brick near the roofline above two 6/6 attic-story windows.

To the southeast of the main block is a two-story, four bay dependency which includes two 6/6 windows in the attic story, and two first-floor 6/6 windows. Access to the basement is found on this elevation. The dependency is smaller in scale and ornamentation. It is two stories in height with a simple boxed cornice and includes four bays on the first and second floors. The roadside elevation includes a door in the second bay. The Potomac River elevation includes a door on the northernmost first-floor bay. The two southernmost bays of the first floor were altered by the construction of a semicircular projecting bay.

The interior is exceptionally well-preserved including mid-19th century woodwork such as stair, floors, mantels, doors and trim. The center hall, measuring 12'3" in width, includes an open suspended staircase with simple, slightly tapered, turned balusters. Remnants of graining is visible on the newel. The stair intersects windows on the northwest gable and southwest eave elevations, as well as the fanlight over the entrance on the southwest elevation. The double-parlor is divided by tall 6-panel double-doors with applied molding. One of the most outstanding features is an elaborate three-part mantel with sunburst design found in the north parlor. Floors throughout are random-width and top-nailed. The second floor includes minor alterations to the floorplan where a bathroom was added at the northeast end of the stair passage. Although the main block is exceptionally well-preserved, according to the owners, a fire destroyed original features in the kitchen dependency which now occupies the center block. Other noteworthy features include the initials EJY & GH carved into the hand-blown glass.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-17

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1792

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1792

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Mt. Republican is significant as one of Charles County's most architecturally interesting and complex historic landmarks. It shares architectural features with nearby Waverly (CH-30) and West Hatton (CH-39) and may be attributed to the same builder/architect. Although its earliest history is not completely documented, early accounts assert that the builder was Theophilus Yates. Land records confirm that in 1775, Henry Smith and Elizabeth Hawkins Yates deeded over 350 acres to their daughter Anne Hedley and her husband Theophilus Yates. According to the deed, there were houses and other improvements found on the property at the time.

By the middle of the 19th century the property was in the possession of Mary Hawkins, who then sold "Mt. Republican" along with other acreage to Francis Weems. In 1886 the property, consisting of 1500 acres stretching from current MD 257 to Pasquahanza Creek, was acquired by Henry Holland Richmond, said to be a native of England. Brother Augustus Richmond built and operated a general store and post office at nearby Wayside. Brother in law Charles Wright operated a saw and gristmill in Wayside. Frederick Richmond bought old Pasquahanza. George Richmond bought Clifton on the Potomac. In 1914 it was purchased by Robert Crain.

Following the Revolutionary War, Charles County experienced a period of economic retrenchment. A spate of bankruptcies caused by the accumulation of debts during the war disrupted the re-establishment of the former social and economic order. Additionally, the decline in soil quality affected by the intensive cultivation of tobacco left many planters short on arable land. Well-established wealthy landowners weathered this period, reestablishing their economic and social dominance, while others chose to move westward in search of better opportunities.

The period of stability was shattered with the onset of the War of 1812. During this conflict, the British navy maintained fleets of warships in the Chesapeake Bay, the Patuxent and the Potomac Rivers. Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties became the focus of frequent and destructive raids by Admiral Cockburn and his fleet. Throughout 1813 and 1814, Cockburn cruised the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, ravaging indefensible villages and farms.

As a result of the constant unpredictable attacks of Admiral Cockburn, Charles Countians suffered from a lack of food, farms that were neglected, slaves that ran off to join the enemy, and the unsanitary living conditions caused illness. Between 1813 and 1815, significant numbers of county residents abandoned their homes and moved to new frontier areas opening up in Kentucky and elsewhere in the west. This decline in the county's population is reflected in the census figures of 1810 and 1820. In 1810, the county's total population was 20,245 persons. By 1820, that number had declined to 16,500. Interestingly, 76 percent of the decline is attributable to the non-white population. While the loss of slaves during the war was considerable, free blacks likely chose to leave as well.

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Mt. Republican

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

ENDNOTES

(1) The tracts deeded to Ann Hedley and Theophilus Yates included "Martin's Triangle", containing 60 acres originally granted to John Martin in 1739; Johnson's Retirement, of unknown acreage; 80 acres originally granted to Samuel Fendall in 1767. A third parcel; 30 acres part of "Bad Weather" purchased by Henry Smith Hawkins from Benjamin Thomas; and three additional parcels contracted by Henry Smith Hawkins from Thomas Hawkins including 80 acres called "Daniel's Mount"; 80 acres called "Barton's Hope" and 50 acres called "Strife".

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-17

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 352

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Mt. Republican is associated with Charles County property Tax Map 82, Parcel 12.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Preservation Planner

organization Charles County Planning

date 3/24/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-17

Section 8 Page 1

Mt. Republican
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of Title:

- 1775 Henry Smith Hawkins and wife Elizabeth to daughter Ann Hedley and husband Theophilus Yates. Five shillings sterling
V 3/42
- 1853 Mary H. Hawkins to Francis W. Weems. 100 dollars. All the part of that tract or parcel of land called Mount Republican ... laid off for 300 acres more or less..buildings, improvements, ways, waters, watercourses, etc.
RHM 1/541
- 1888 Mary H. Hawkins to Henry H. and Thomas Richmond tract or part of a tract on the public road leading from Port Tobacco to Cobb neck 496 acres. Improvements thereupon. \$4250
JST 2/503
- 1914 To Robert Crain from Henry H. Richmond, et al; 1- 1400 acres; 2- 26 3/4
HCC 27/301
- 1937 Md Realty Investment Trust to Kennedy
WMA 64/562
- 1962 F. Bowie Addison and wife from R. Kennedy Hanson & wife
p.1 150 acres WMA 64/559
p.2 130 acres; being part of a larger tract conveyed to Robert Crain from H. Richmond in 1914 HCC 27/301
3&4
Same conveyed to Hanson F.D. Mudd in 1941 WMA 75/303
157/618

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-17

Section 9 Page 1

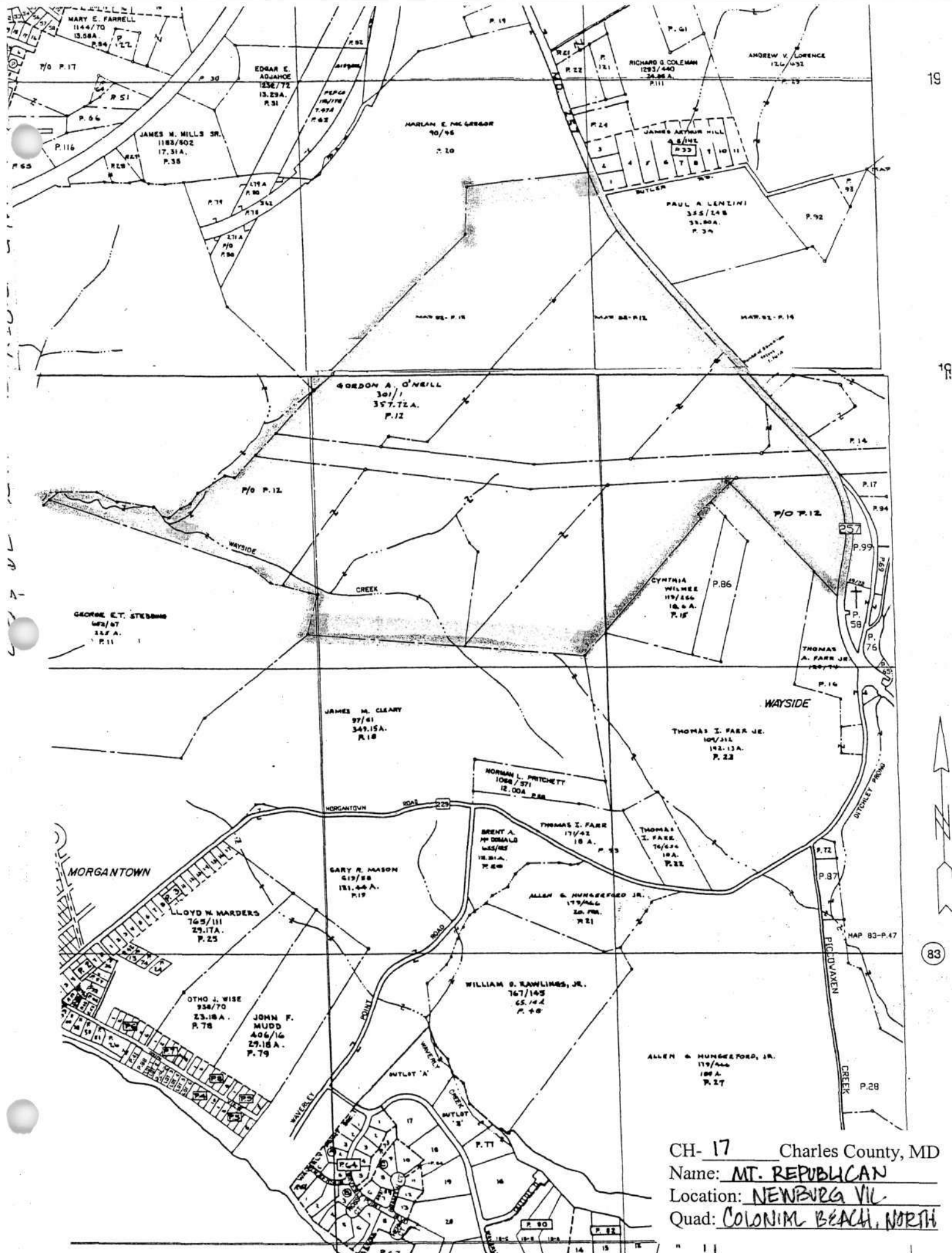
Mt. Republican
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.





CH- 17 Charles County, MD
Name: MT. REPUBLICAN
Location: NEWBURG VIC.
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH N



CH-17
Mt. Republican
Charles Co., MD
C. Hardy
8/2002

MD SHPO
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1 OF 10



CH-17

Mt. Republican

Charles Co., MD

C. Herdy

8/2002

MD SHPO
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

2 of 10



CH-17

Mt. Republican
Charles Co., MD

C. Hardy

8/2002

MD SHPD

FRIZEE DETAIL, NE elevation

30p10



CH-17
Mt. Republican
Charles Co., MD
C. Hardy
8/2002

MD SHPO
ENTRANCE, NE ELEVATION 4 OF 10



CH-17

Mt. Republican

Charles Co., MD

C. Hardy

8/2002

MD SHPO

NW ELEVATION

50F 10



CH-17
Mt. Republican
Charles Co., MD
C. Hardy
8/2002

MD SHPO
SW ELEVATION
60F10



CH-17

Mt. Republican

Charles Co., MD

C. Hardy

812002

MD SHPO

NEWEL 7 OF 10



CH-17
Mt. Republican
Charles Co., MD
C. Hardy
812002
MD SHPO
PARLOR, LOOKING N
80810



CH-17

Mt. Republican

Charles Co., MD

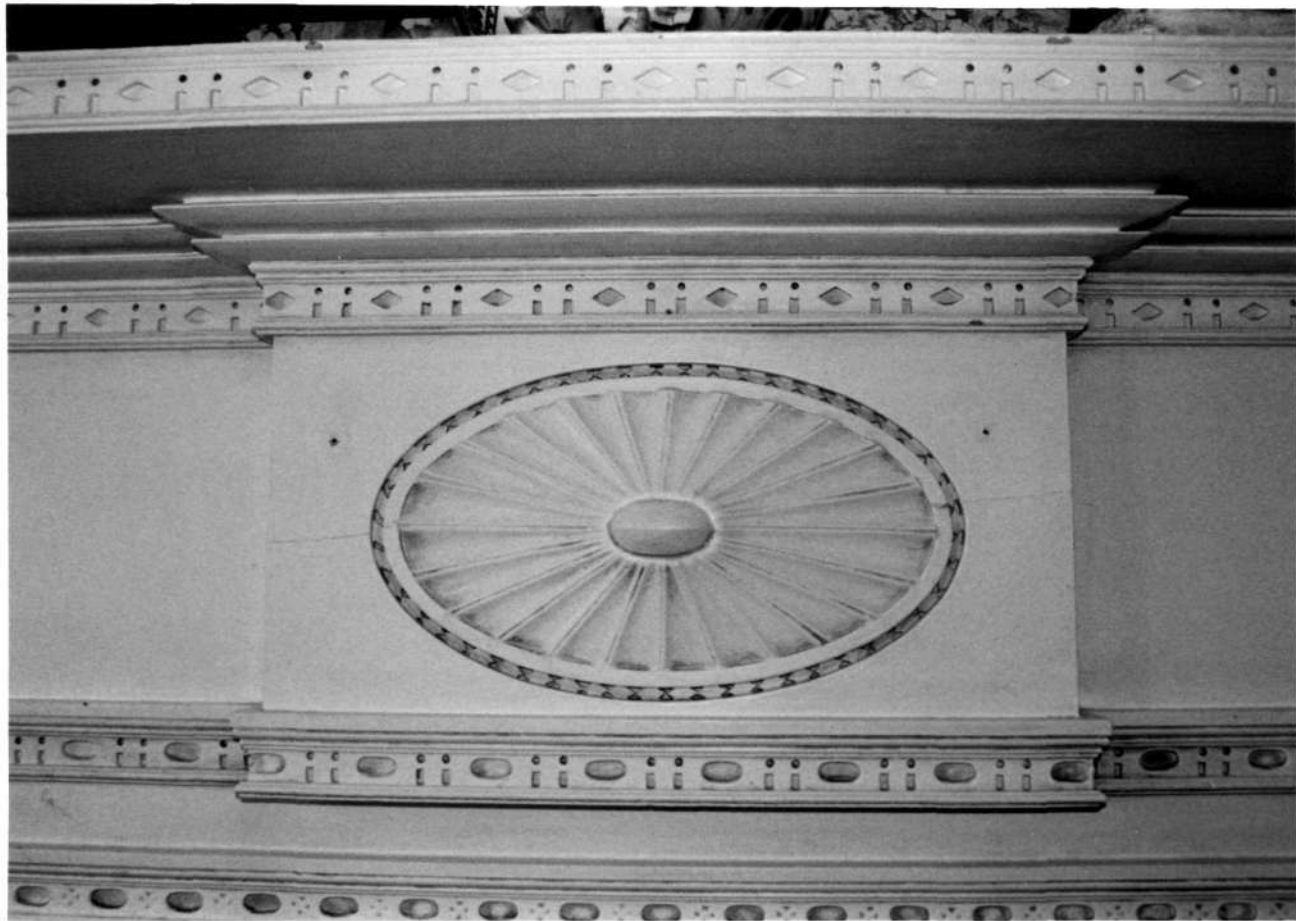
C. Hardy

812002

MD SHPD

MANLE, EAST DARLOR

9 OF 10



CH-17
Mt. Republican
Charles Co., MD
C. Herdy
8/2002

MD SHPO
MANTLE DETAIL
10 OF 10

CH-17
Mt. Republican
Newburg
Private

c. 1792

Situated on the crest of a ridge overlooking the Potomac River, Mt.

Republican is today one of the finest Federal houses extant in Southern Maryland. The brick main block, three bays in length and having an end hall and double parlor floor plan, has main entrance doors with matching, elaborately traceried fanlights at both the north and south facades. The eave cornices are decorated with fluted triglyphs and metopes of diamonds, guttae, and chains.

The pair of flush gable chimneys at each end are bridged, displaying a small diamond in glazed headers similar to that seen at nearby Waverley. The somewhat lower two-story east wing was added circa 1820, while the two one-story additions to that are of a 20th century date. Apparently, most of the interior was remodeled early in the 19th century and in 1968, a fire destroyed most of the interior of the second floor and attic levels of the main house.

Mt. Republican was the home of the Richmond family, although its construction is attributed to Theophilus Yates.



65 1/2 P. 63 Ch. 17 P. 63

CH-17 MT. REPUBLICAN

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